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Palmdale High School Coach Pleads to Sexual Relationship with Underage Student

A former Palmdale High School girls' varsity basketball coach entered no contest pleas today to charges related to a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old student player, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Marcus Anthonio Williams (dob 3/9/77) of Lancaster pleaded no contest to one felony count each of contact with minor for sexual offense, meeting minor for lewd purposes, possession of child or youth pornography, lewd act upon a child, oral copulation of a person under 16 and two felony counts of activity involving material depicting sexual conduct.

Deputy District Attorney Jon Hatami said Williams entered the plea in case MA067745 on what was scheduled as an arraignment date.

The defendant will face four years and eight months in state prison and lifetime sexual offender registration at a sentencing hearing scheduled March 16 in Department A-18 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch.

On Jan. 7, Los Angeles County Sheriff deputies discovered Williams and the victim in a vehicle parked on the side of the street, the prosecutor said. Numerous naked and explicit photographs and videos of the victim were discovered in the defendant's cell phone as well as sexual conversations with the teenage victim via text messaging and social media, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.